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March 10, 2006

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Art Unit 2822

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 10/780,877; Filed: February 19, 2004
For: **Overlay Correction By Reducing Wafer Slipping After Alignment**
Inventor: Peter Kochersperger
Our Ref: 1857.2140000

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Reply to Requirement For Election of Species; and

2. One (1) Return Postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Michelle K. Holoubek
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 54,179

MKH/srb
Enclosures

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Confirmation No.: 1990
Peter Kochersperger	Art Unit: 2822
Appl. No.: 10/780,877	Examiner: Duong, Khanh B.
Filed: February 19, 2004	Atty. Docket: 1857.2140000
For: **Overlay Correction By Reducing Wafer Slipping After Alignment**	

Reply to Requirement For Election of Species

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated February 10, 2006, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Species A. Applicant noticed that the Examiner defined the species based only on the figures rather than the claims. Applicant notes that the drawing figures are provided as an aid in describing the invention, and that the invention, as defined by the claims, is not limited to the examples provided in the drawings. Applicant thus interprets Species A, defined by Figures 3A and 3B, as reading on claim(s) 12-14 and 23. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

The Examiner states that no claim is currently generic. However, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner, and asserts that independent claim 12, for example, is generic. Independent claim 12 recites, among other things, "an expander coupled to the wafer chuck to expand the wafer chuck and create an initial stress at an interface between the wafer and the wafer chuck." Each of the Figures for Species A through E illustrates such an expander. Furthermore, claims 13-23 depend directly or indirectly from

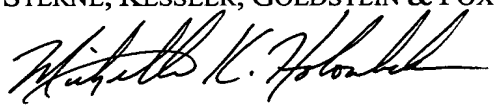
independent claim 12. Applicant therefore asserts the right to claim additional species in the event that a generic claim thereto is found to be allowable in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a).

This election is made **without traverse**. Consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

It is believed that extensions of time are not required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michelle K. Holoubek
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Date: March 10, 2006

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